(d) and (e) As part of its commitments under the 18 July Agreement, the Prime Minister conveyed that India would be ready to assume the same responsibilities and practices and acquire the same benefits and advantages as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technology, such as the United States. These responsibilities and practices consisted, among others, of identifying and separating civilian and military nuclear facilities and programmes in a phased manner and filing a declaration regarding its civilian facilities with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and taking a decision to place voluntarily its civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.

Government's views on Iran's nuclear programme

179. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The reaction of the government to the pressure being built by USA and European Union on Iran to curtail its nuclear programme;

(b) Whether government have discussed this issue with USA and other countries as its non-resolution may lead to another war;

(c) If so, the details of the discussion and if not, the reasons therefore especially as the issue reflects on India's security concerns; and

(d) The Steps Government proposes to take to express its solidarity with countries which are pursuing nuclear programmes to meet their energy needs and face opposition from nuclear countries like India did a few years ago?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has always maintained that issues related to the Iranian nuclear programme should be resolved in a transparent manner within the framework of the IAEA and through negotiations. The Government has been engaged in consultations with other countries with a view to find a diplomatic solution to the issue.

(d) Government has always maintained that countries should pursue their right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with their international obligations and commitments. This position remains unchanged.